



H1N1 Provider Briefing

Date: December 2, 2009
To: All Healthcare Providers
From: Director of Health, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH
Re: Information on H1N1 in Rhode Island

Local Influenza Activity Level: Widespread¹; H1N1 predominant circulating strain

Rhode Island²: 343 hospitalized cases, 9 deaths

Sentinel Surveillance (% of visits due to influenza-like illness)³: Rhode Island: 5.4%, New England Region: 6.0%, Nation: 3.9%

Even though Rhode Island's flu activity continues to decrease, levels of influenza-like illness are high compared to what is expected for this time of year. H1N1 vaccination remains important to protect individuals against an anticipated additional wave of illness over the coming months.

H1N1 school-based clinic vaccine uptake

77,774 school-aged children have received the H1N1 vaccine in the first 18 days of HEALTH's 28-school-day H1N1 school-based vaccination program. Of the currently enrolled students in schools with clinics held during this time period, 76% received the vaccine.

CDC H1N1 phishing scam alert

The CDC Cyber Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT) has received reports of fraudulent emails (phishing) referencing a CDC-sponsored State Vaccination Program for H1N1. Users that click on the embedded link in the email asking them to create a personal profile are at risk of having malicious code installed on their system. To reduce the risk of being a victim of a phishing attack, do not follow unsolicited links or open or respond to unsolicited email messages and use caution when visiting un-trusted websites or entering personal information online.

H1N1 vaccine provider enrollment and reordering

The H1N1 vaccine provider enrollment process reopened today, December 2, for providers who did not enroll in the program during the initial enrollment period. The enrollment process will close again on Friday, December 11 at 4 p.m.

Current program enrollees who would like to increase their original patient estimates are also able to make these changes in the system at this time. Keep in mind when adjusting your estimates that providers will be able to begin administering the H1N1 vaccine to school-aged children in grades kindergarten through 12 who missed their **first** doses of H1N1 vaccine after the completion of all regular school-based vaccination clinics. HEALTH is still planning for the second H1N1 vaccine dose for school-aged children through 9 years of age to occur in January and February in additional school-based clinics.

Many providers did not complete the Vaccine Ordering/Priority Group Breakdown step in the H1N1 enrollment process, which is required to finalize the enrollment process. Providers who did not complete this step must do so now. To enroll in the H1N1 vaccine provider program, edit original enrollment information,

¹ Rhode Island reported widespread activity for the week of November 22 to November 28, 2009. Percentages of influenza-like illness remain above baseline in all 5 regions of the state. For details see <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/surveillance/>.

² Confirmed and probable H1N1 hospitalizations and deaths since September 1, 2009

³ Influenza-like illness activity reported by 27 sentinel surveillance sites from November 15 to November 21, 2009

or complete a priority group breakdown, see <http://pandemic.health.ri.gov/h1n1/>. For vaccine order assistance, please contact Sue Duggan-Ball at 222-1580, sue.dugganball@health.ri.gov or Heidi Wallace at 222-4631, heidi.wallace@health.ri.gov.

H1N1 vaccine provider inventory

HEALTH is developing a system for posting current H1N1 vaccine provider inventory information online to promote increased uptake by patients. Vaccine providers are reminded of the requirement to report doses administered electronically to HEALTH on a weekly basis. Up-to-date information regarding vaccine supply in each of your practices is essential in order to make decisions about vaccine allocation, redistribution between practices, and changes in priority groups based on vaccine uptake.

H1N1 Fluzone multi-dose vial delivery and usage

Pediatric practices are advised that due to the limited supply of H1N1 Fluzone 0.25ml pre-filled syringes, they will be required to use the multi-dose vial (MDV) inventory for their entire population of 6 month - 5 year olds who cannot receive the H1N1 intranasal vaccine. Children younger than 3 years of age can receive the MDV formulation, but it is to be delivered as a half dose (0.25ml, not 0.5ml). Providers should still continue to prioritize injectable vaccines for those children who cannot receive the H1N1 intranasal vaccine. H1N1 intranasal vaccine may be used with children 2-5 years of age without medical contraindications for the vaccine. To read a related memo, see

<http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/H1N1FluzoneVaccineDistributionMemoToPediatricians.pdf>.

H1N1 vaccination clinics for pregnant and post-partum women

South County Hospital is holding an H1N1 vaccination clinic for pregnant and post-partum women up to six months post-partum on Wednesday, December 2 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at its Potter Conference Center at 100 Kenyon Avenue. For more information about this clinic, see <http://www.schospital.com/news.cfm?id=459>.

An H1N1 vaccination clinic for pregnant and post-partum women is also scheduled for Wednesday, December 9 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the VNA of Care New England's office at 51 Health Lane in Warwick. This office is on the Kent Hospital campus. This clinic will be open to pregnant women and to post-partum women up to six months post-partum.

Westerly Hospital is planning additional clinics for pregnant and post-partum women the week of December 7. The dates and times of these clinics will be communicated as they become available.

H1N1 vaccination clinic for Rhode Island students in out-of-state schools (K-12)

HEALTH will hold the H1N1 vaccination clinic for Rhode Islanders in grades kindergarten through 12 who attend out-of-state schools on Saturday, December 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Cannon Building, its headquarters, in Providence. The Cannon Building is located at Three Capitol Hill, just north of the Rhode Island State House. Online clinic enrollment closes at 4 p.m. **today**, December 2, and no walk-ins will be allowed at the clinic. For more information and to download required vaccination consent forms, see <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/schoolh1n1clinics/makeupregistration/index.php>. To view a press release announcing the clinic location and hours of operation, see <http://www.ri.gov/press/view/10262>.

College and university-based H1N1 vaccination clinics

Nine residential colleges and universities in Rhode Island began vaccinating students against H1N1 flu this week. Over a three-week period, all colleges, universities, and technical schools in the state will host clinics for students through age 24 who are enrolled at those institutions. On December 14, H1N1 vaccination clinics are tentatively scheduled to start (pending vaccine availability) on the campuses of colleges and universities with non-residential student populations. For information about clinics at an individual school, contact that school's health services office. For general information about the college and university-based clinics, see www.health.ri.gov.

Healthy college students are receiving vaccine intranasally, unlike children in kindergarten through grade 12 who are receiving injectable vaccine in schools. College students unable to receive the vaccine intranasally will

receive injectable vaccine approved only for individuals over the age of 18. HEALTH's school-based vaccination program for children in kindergarten through grade 12 is not affected by the vaccination of college and university students.

Influenza vaccine safety

HEALTH has developed a set of materials on H1N1 vaccine safety for providers to help them answer patients' questions and engage them in informed discussions about the safety and effectiveness of the H1N1 vaccine. These materials are posted on HEALTH's website at <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/for/providers/>.

Resources

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>;
- Archived provider briefings and regular news updates: <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/flu/>
- H1N1 Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-8022
- H1N1 email address h1n1@health.ri.gov
- <http://www.flu.gov>